

REMARKS

Summary Of Office Action

Claims 1-53 are pending in this application.

The Examiner objected to claims 33-37 for a minor antecedence error.

The Examiner objected to claims 46-50 for a minor antecedence error.

Claims 9-12, 21-24, 26-32, 35, and 51-53 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Stevens et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,226,729 (hereinafter "Stevens").

Claims 1-5, 7, 8, 13-17, 19, 20, 25, 33, 34, 36-47, 49, and 50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from Stevens in view of Johnson et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,577,236 (hereinafter "Johnson").

Claims 6, 18, and 48 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from Stevens in view of Johnson in further view of Olarig et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,134,638 (hereinafter "Olarig").

Claim 35 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from Stevens in view of Olarig.

Summary Of Applicant's Reply

Applicant has amended claims 33-37 and 46-50 to correct the antecedence errors. In particular, claims 33-37 have been amended to depend from claim 32 instead of claim 31, and claims 46-50 have been amended to depend from claim 45 instead of claim 43.

Applicant has amended claims 9, 11, 12, 21, 23, 24, 26, 29, 30, 31, 40, and 51-53 to more particularly define the invention.

Applicant has amended the specification to correct a minor typographical error.

No new matter has been added and all of the amendments are fully justified by the original specification.

Reconsideration of this application in view of the amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Rejections of Claims
Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-5, 7, 8, 13-17, 19, 20, 25, 33, 34, 36-47, 49, and 50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from Stevens in view of Johnson.

These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicant's invention, as defined by independent claims 1, 13, 25, 38, 40, 41, and 43, is directed toward a method, computer systems, memory controllers and an apparatus for selecting an operating speed of memory modules in a computer system. Multiple clock frequencies are generated and one of the multiple clock frequencies is selected.

Stevens refers to a method for configuring or initializing a memory device. During the configuration or initialization of Stevens, a clock generator is started in the memory controller. The frequency of the clock is selected by "determining a channel frequency at which all [memory modules] operate" (Stevens, column 13, lines 43-45).

Johnson refers to a memory controller for reading data from synchronous RAM. In Johnson, a sampling clock provides an assortment of sampling clock signals that duplicate the system clock signal with various delays. In response to the number of memory modules present, the clock selector selects one of the delayed sampling clock signals.

As the Examiner correctly acknowledges, Stevens does not disclose or suggest generating multiple clocks at different frequencies.

Johnson also does not disclose or suggest generating multiple clocks at different frequencies. Instead, Johnson discloses generating multiple clocks at the same frequency, but with different amounts of delay:

"Each of these clock signals is delayed by a different amount with respect to the system clock" (Johnson, column 7, lines 59-60).

"The system clock signal and the sampling clock signals 401-403 comprise . . . signals with a frequency of 50MHz" (id., column 8, lines 1-3).

Johnson provides different clocks for synchronization, not speed. Applicant's invention provides multiple clocks having different frequencies so an appropriate speed can be selected.

Thus, neither Stevens nor Johnson shows or suggests this limitation of applicant's claims. Therefore, the combination of Stevens and Johnson does not render obvious applicant's invention as defined in independent claims 1, 13, 25, 38, 40, 41, and 43.

For at least the reasons discussed above with respect to independent claims 1, 13, 25, 38, 40, 41, and 43, dependent claims 4-8, 14-20, 33, 34, 36, 37, 39, 42, and 44-50, which depend directly or indirectly from claims 1, 13, 25, 38, 40, 41, or 43, ~~are also not rendered obvious from~~ the combination of Stevens and Johnson (i.e., dependent claims are patentable if their independent claim is patentable).

Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests that the rejections of claims 1-8, 13-20, 25, 33, 34, and 36-50 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

Rejections of Claims
Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 9-12, 21-24, 26-32, and 51-53 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Stevens.

These rejections are respectfully traversed.

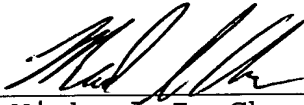
For at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claims 1-8, 13-20, 25, 33, 34, and 36-50, amended claims 9, 11, 12, 21, 23, 24, 26, 29-31, and 51-53, and their dependent claims 10, 22, 27, 28, 32 and 35, are not anticipated nor rendered obvious by Stevens.

Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests that the rejections of claims 9-12, 21-24, 26-32, 35, and 51-53 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) be withdrawn.

Conclusion

The foregoing demonstrates that claims 1-53 are allowable. This application is therefore in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are accordingly respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael J. Chasan
Registration No. 54,026
Agent for Applicant

FISH & NEAVE
Customer No. 1473
1251 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10020-1105
(212) 596-9000